

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02767 171830Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W

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R 171105Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4599

INFO AMEMBAUUY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN

SUBJECT: ZOP DENIES INDIAN ALLEGATIONS ON NORMALIZATION

1. MFA SPOKESMAN MARCH 16 DENIED ALLEGATION BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHAION IN WHICH CHAVAN REPORTEDLY QUESTIONED PAKISTAN'S DESIRE FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH INDIA. HE REITERATED THAT GOP WAS READY FOR TALKS WITH GOI ON ANY ONE OR ALL OF THE THREE ISSUES ON THE SIMLA AGENDA STILL OUTSTANDING -- ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, OVERFLIGHTS, AND THE KASHMIR DISPUTE.

2. MFA STATEMENT WAS SPECIFICALLY PROMPTED BY CHAVAN'S ALLEGED REPLY TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONING MARCH 12 WHEN HE SAID (ACCORDING PAK SPOKESMAN) THAT PAKISTAN DISPLAYED "CONTRADICTORY ATTITUDES" WHICH LED TO "SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT PAKISTAN IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH INDIA." SPOKESMAN SAID THESE ACCUSATIONS HAD NO VALIDITY AND THAT GOP WAS

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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 02767 171830Z

AWAITING POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM INDIANS ON ALL THREE

SIMLA ISSUES STILL OUTSTANDING.

3. ACCORDING TO MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA) HAYAT MEHDI, WHO REMARKED TO POL COUNSELOR TODAY THAT HE WAS BECOMING FED UP WITH INDIAN CHARGES THAT PAKS WERE DRAGGING THEIR HEELS, REBUTTAL OF CHAVAN'S STATEMENT ALSO PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR GOP) TAKE PUBLIC NOTE OF PM GANDHI'S AMBIGUOUS REPLY TO A QUESTION POSED TO HER BY BLITZ EDITOR KARANJIA. AS SPOKESMAN PUT IT, GANDHI STATEMENT (IN MARCH 6 ISSUE OF MAGAZINE) "GAVE CREDENCE TO FALSE REPORTS THAT PAKISTAN HAD UNDERTAKEN CLANDESTINE SHIPMENTS OF ARMS TO PRO-PAKISTAN ELEMENTS IN BANGLADESH." HE SAID THAT ALLEGATION WAS "TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION."

4. SPOKESMAN CONCLUDED THAT "NOTWITHSTANDING THESE SETBACKS FOR WHICH INDIA IS RESPONSIBLE, IT REMAINS PAKISTAN'S POLICY TO PURSUE THE PATH OF NORMALIZATION AND PROMOTION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH INDIA AS LAID DOWN BY THE SIMLA AGREEMENT."

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